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Congress of the United States
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Washington, D.C. 20515

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HARRY CRUTCHER, III
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

MRS. JO RYALS GUMMELT
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

September 13, 1965

The Honorable Nicholas deB. Katzenbach
The Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

With the passage of H. R. 9545, and the anticipated subsequent passage of a similar measure by the Senate, a matter presents itself to which I would draw your attention.

Among the articles involved in the incident of November 22, 1963, and which has previously not received too much attention, is the casket in which the body of the late President was transported to Washington. Inasmuch as the family of the late President (President Kennedy) did not see fit to use this particular casket in the ultimate interment of the body, this casket has subsequently become surplus.

It is an extremely handsome, expensive, all bronze, silk-lined casket and, fortunately, and properly, was paid for by the General Services Administration, and presently is in the possession of GSA.

This item has absolutely no more historical significance than does the plastic mattress cover in which the body was encased for shipment from Dallas to Washington, but does have a value for the morbidly curious. And I believe that I am correct in stating that this morbid curiosity is that which we all seek to stop.

I, therefore, would like to recommend to you that this casket, now in the possession of the GSA, be declared the proper property of the USA and, as such and in keeping with the best interest of the country, be destroyed.

I believe that the Administrator of GSA and others involved will concur in this recommendation.

Thanking you for your earnest consideration of this matter, I am

Respectfully yours,

EARLE CABELL, M.C.

EC:KC
cc: Mr. Lawson Knott, Administrator
General Services Administration

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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Mr. Lawson Knott
Administrator
General Services Administration
Washington, D. C.